FORMER ALTURAS PHYSICIAN OWEN MURPHY PANNER, JR., CHARGED WITH CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SACRAMENTO-United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that former Alturas, California, physician OWEN MURPHY PANNER, JR., 59, of Riddle Oregon, surrendered today in Riddle, Oregon, to Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in response to an arrest warrant issued on an Indictment charging Mr. Panner with two counts of sexual exploitation of a child, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a), and a third count charging him with possession of child pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B). According to the Indictment, the charges stem from his production and possession in 2001 of two videotapes of minor females, who he sexually exploited.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Modoc County Sheriff's Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Samuel Wong, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted on either Counts One or Two, the maximum penalty under federal law is not less than ten years nor more than twenty years imprisonment, a $250,000 fine, three years supervised release, and a $100 special assessment. The maximum penalty for a conviction on Count Three is five years incarceration, a $250,000 fine, three years supervised release, and a $100 special assessment.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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